(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) when the said line is likely to be restored to serve the important industrial town situated there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). Shahpur-Saradia portion of Saradia - Junagadh section has been closed on account of heavy breaches and extensive damage to bridges. In view of the line being uneconomic, availability of adequate road transport services, and high cost of expenditure on repairs, it is not proposed to restore this section.

Scheme to save Taj Mahal from Pollution

2320. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:
SHRI PRATAPPRAO B. BHONSLE:
SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Taj is losing its lusture and growing paler day by day even after the implementation of the recommendations of the Varadarajan Committee to save Taj Mahal from environmental pollution;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any positive scheme is under consideration of the Government to save Taj Mahal from environmental pollution of Agra;

(d) if so the details thereof; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Measures have already been taken by different agencies including Archaeological Survey of India to preserve Taj Mahal from Pollution.

(d) The details are as under:

(i) Two thermal power plants have been closed down in 1981.

(ii) Agra railway station yard has been dieselised.

(iii) The forest Department of the Government of Uttar Pradesh has created a green belt around Taj Mahal by plantation of trees.

(iv) The state Government is monitoring the pollution levels in Agra.

(v) The Archaeological Survey of India is constantly monitoring the ambient air around the Taj Mahal to assess the level of sulphur-di-oxide, suspended particulate matter and other pollutants as well as meteriological data in order to take such remedial measures as may be required and consequently periodical chemical treatment and preservation is being carried out.

(vi) Department of Environment, Government of India vide its notification dated 3rd May, 1983 has demarcated a geographical zone around Taj Mahal where no industry with pollution potential is allowed.

(vii) There is a ban on the use of furnace oil and diesel generators in industries in Agra. The foundaries are not permitted to operate during winter nights.

(e) Question does not arise

Illegal selling of Railway Passes

2322 SHRI P M SAYEED Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Railway protection Force has recently busted a racket involving selling of free railway passes

(b) if so, the details thereof and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check this type of malpractice in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir Recently RPF of Western Railway has busted a racket involving the selling of free railway passes on 6 2 1992 at Ajmer Station In this connection three persons including one railways employee were arrested by the RPF One Railway employee who has since retired and anted in the case is absconding A case dated 6 2 1992 u/s 3 RP (UP) Act has been registered at Ajmer

(c) All concerned have been advised to keep pass book in safe custody and carry out periodical checks In case of missing numbers the same are being notified to all concerned to avoid misuse

Ganga Action Plan - II

2323 SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rs 615 crore outlay for Ganga Action Plan-II" appearing in the Financial Express dated February 7, 1992,

(b) if so, the facts thereof including the details of the plan for cleaning and pollution abatement of the Yamuna and the other schemes in Ganga Action Plan Phase-II, and

(c) the sources tapped for funding of the said plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) (a) to (c) Yes, Sir An extension of Ganga Action Plan for its second phase is under consideration of the Government The schemes proposed under Ganga Action Plan Phase II include left over pollution abatement works in 25 class I towns which could not be included in GAP Phase I Pollution abatement works in Class II and Class III towns in the main stream of River Ganga and works on the grossly polluted stretches of major tributaries of Ganga like Yamuna, Damodar Gomti details in this regard including sources of funding, are under finalisation

Killing of Frogs and other Animals in Vijayawada

2324 SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether thousands of frogs and other animals are killed every day in Andhra Pradesh and

(b) if so the measures taken to preserve these animals especially in Vijayawada?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) (a) Chief Wildlife Warden of Andhra Pradesh has reported that no large scale killing or illegal trappint of frogs and other animals has been detected in the State during the recent past

(b) Measures taken to ensure protec-